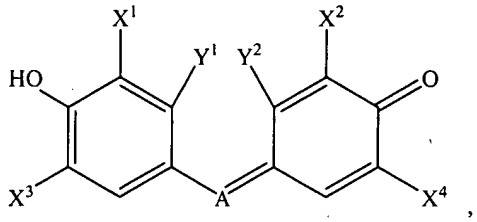
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A compound having the structure:



wherein:

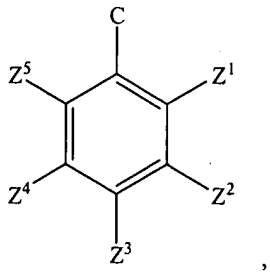
each of X^1 and X^2 is independently F, Cl, Br, or I;

X^3 is $NHCH_2R$, or $NHSO_2R$, wherein R is a five or six-membered heterocyclic ring;

X^4 is $NHCH_2R$, or $NHSO_2R$, wherein R is as defined above,

Y^1 and Y^2 taken together are -O-, -S-, -Se-, $-CMe_2-$, -NH-, -NMe-, or -NPh-;

A is



wherein:

Z^1 is H, CO_2H, or SO_3H;

each of Z^2 and Z^5 is independently H, F, or Cl;

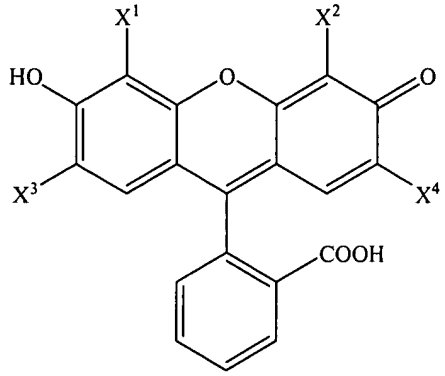
each of Z^3 and Z^4 is independently H, F, Cl, CO_2H, NO_2, NH_2, NCS, $NHCOCH_2I$, SCH_2OOOH, $SCH_2CH_2NH_2$, (N-succinimidyl)oxycarbonyl, (N-

succinimidyl)oxycarbonylmethylthio, N-maleimidyl, or 3,5-dichloro-2,4,6-triazinylamino, or tautomers and physiologically acceptable salts thereof.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein Z^1 is CO_2H, and Z^2, Z^3, Z^4, and Z^5 are each independently H.

4. (Previously Presented) A compound having the structure:



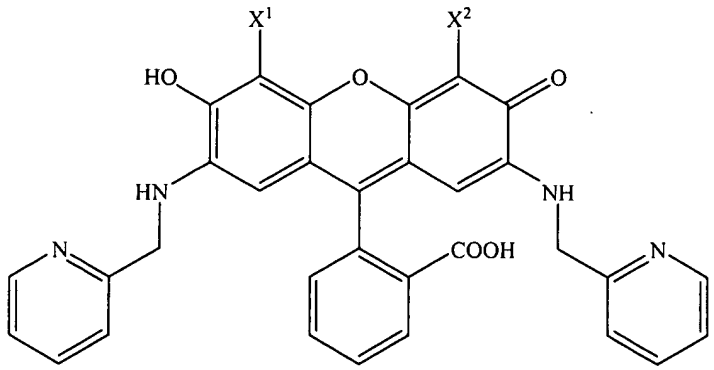
wherein:

each of X^1 and X^2 is independently F, Cl, Br, or I; and

X^3 and X^4 are $NHCH_2R$ or $NHSO_2R$, wherein R is a five or six-membered heterocyclic ring.

5. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 4, wherein each X^3 and X^4 is independently $NHSO_2R$.

6. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 4 having the structure



wherein:

each X^1 and X^2 is independently F, Me or Cl.

7. - 10 (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) An adduct, comprising a product of bonding of the compound of claim 1 to a target sequence in the presence of a chelating substance including Zn^{2+} ion, wherein the adduct is capable of generating a detectable signal.

12. (Previously Presented) The adduct of claim 11, wherein the detectable signal is a fluorescent signal.

13. (Previously Presented) The adduct of claim 12, wherein the target sequence is a histidine-rich peptide sequence.

14. (Previously Presented) The adduct of claim 13, wherein the histidine-rich peptide sequence comprises 6 histidine residues.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) A kit, comprising:

(a) a compound of claim 1;

(b) a chelating substance including Zn^{2+} ion; and

(c) a target sequence,

wherein in the presence of Zn^{2+} ion, the compound of claim 1 is capable of binding to the target sequence in a recombinant fusion protein to generate a detectable signal, the target sequence comprising a histidine-rich peptide sequence.

17. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 16, wherein the target sequence comprises 6 histidine residues.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 16, wherein the detectable signal is a fluorescent signal.

20. (Previously Presented) A complex, comprising a product of reaction between:

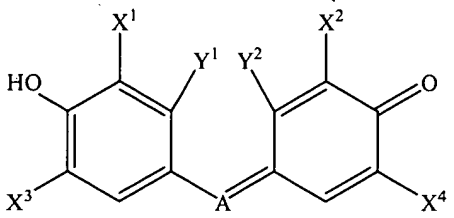
(a) a compound of claim 1;

(b) a targeting sequence comprising a histidine-rich peptide sequence; and

(c) Zn^{2+} ion.

21. (Previously Presented) The complex of claim 20, wherein the histidine-rich peptide sequence comprises 6 histidine residues.

22. (Previously Presented) A method of labeling a histidine-rich protein, comprising contacting a fusion protein including a native protein and a targeting sequence, in the presence of an effective amount of Zn^{2+} ion, with a compound having the structure:



wherein:

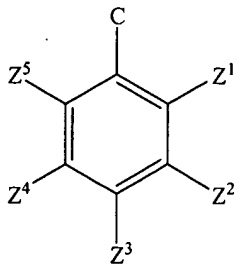
each of X^1 and X^2 is independently F, Cl, Br, or I;

X^3 is $NHCH_2R$, or $NHSO_2R$, wherein R is a five or six-membered heterocyclic ring;

X^4 is $NHCH_2R$, or $NHSO_2R$, wherein R is as defined above,

Y^1 and Y^2 taken together are -O-, -S-, -Se-, $-CMe_2-$, -NH-, -NMe-, or -NPh-;

A is



wherein:

Z^1 is H, CO_2H, or SO_3H;

each of Z^2 and Z^5 is independently H, F, or Cl;

each of Z^3 and Z^4 is independently H, F, Cl, CO_2H, NO_2, NH_2, NCS, $NHCOCH_2I$, SCH_2OOOH, $SCH_2CH_2NH_2$, (N-succinimidyl)oxycarbonyl, (N-succinimidyl)oxycarbonylmethylthio, N-maleimidyl, or 3,5-dichloro-2,4,6-triazinylamino,

or tautomers and physiologically acceptable salts thereof, thereby labeling the histidine-rich protein.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the histidine-rich protein comprises 6 histidine residues.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the compound is capable of generating a detectable signal.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the signal is a fluorescent signal.

27. (Original) The compound of claim 5 having the structure: